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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1160
By Turner (Ham)

A RESOLUTION to commend William Ventress for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as Superintendent of the Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, William Ventress is one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, on September 17, 2001, he assumed his duties as Superintendent of the Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute, and since that time, he has earned the respect and admiration of people throughout the Tennessee medical community for his diligence, dedication, compassion, and knowledge; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Mr. Ventress has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, he graduated from the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga with a Bachelor of Science Degree; and

WHEREAS, knowing the immense value of education, he later continued his studies and earned a Master's Degree in counseling psychology from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and a Master's Degree in public health administration from the University of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Bill Ventress possesses a wealth of experience and expertise that has proven invaluable in his leadership of the Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute; in addition to his counseling work, he has served as Vice President of Operations and Special Projects for BHMA, LLC in Bethesda, Maryland, Regional Director of Residential Services for Behavioral Health Systems, Northeast Region, in Rockville, Maryland, and Chief Executive Officer for Charter Behavioral Health Systems of Maryland at Potomac Ridge and Fairbridge and also in Rockville; and

WHEREAS, he returned to Chattanooga after having worked as an independent consultant in the Baltimore and Washington, D.C. areas; he previously served with acumen and alacrity as Director of Alcohol and Drug Services at the Joseph Johnson Mental Health Institute in Chattanooga from 1977-1981 and was Assistant Program Director and Unit Social Worker at Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute from 1973-1977; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ventress's remarkable success is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Bill Ventress is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, William Ventress is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend William Ventress for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as Superintendent of the Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish him much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.